

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ACDA-10

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IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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R 180900Z JUL 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1148

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

SUNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0376

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JULY 17 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. THE FINAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE SIXTH ROUND OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE ON JULY 17, 1975. THE US REP AND THE SOVIET REP DELIVERED STATEMENTS. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES THE US STATEMENT; SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH SUMMARY OF THE SOVIET ONE.

2. US REP KEYNOTED HIS PRESENTATION WITH REFERENCE TO WESTERN DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FAILURE OF THE EAST THUSFAR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANT POINTS MADE BY THE WEST CONCERNING THE BEARING OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT ON WESTERN SECURITY. THESE REFLECTED  
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ESSENTIAL WESTERN INTERESTS. THE EAST MUST ADDRESS

THEM IF THE VIENNA TALKS ARE TO SUCCEED.

3. APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS WOULD

DIMINISH THE RISK OF EAST-WEST CONFLICT AND ENHANCE STABILITY, A FACT THAT IS AT THE CORE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE EAST PRESENTLY ENJOYS SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES ESPECIALLY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER, TANKS AND GEOGRAPHY. THE LAST IS IMMUTABLE. IN THE WESTERN VIEW, THE OBJECT AT VIENNA IS TO REDRESS RATHER THAN, AS THE EAST IN EFFECT HAS PROPOSED, TO CONTRACTUALIZE THE OTHER TWO. US REP REVIEWED THE RATIONALE FOR A PHASED REDUCTION APPROACH, BEGINNING WITH SOVIET AND US FORCES AS DISTINCT FROM THOSE OF THE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. HE NOTED THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CEILINGS ADVOCATED BY THE EAST AND MADE EXPLICIT THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN LARGER EASTERN REDUCTIONS THE ADVANTAGE EAST WOULD GAIN FROM FORCE LIMITATIONS ON ALL NATO FORCES IN THE AREA, WHILE SOVIET FORCES IN USSR, WHICH ADJOINED THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD NOT BE LIMITED.

4. THE SECOND HALF OF THE WESTERN STATEMENT FOLLOWED THE LATEST NATO GUIDANCE TO ELABORATE ON THE ISSUE OF FLANK SECURITY. US REP QUOTED THE APRIL 4, 1974 EASTERN JOINT PRESENTATION TO ILLUSTRATE IMPLICIT COMMON AGREEMENT THAT RESULTS AT VIENNA "MUST STRENGTHEN, AND NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDLESS OF THEIR STATUS." THE WEST WOULD "INDUE COURSE" TABLE A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT PROVISION TO IMPLEMENT THIS PRINCIPLE AS IT APPLIED TO FLANK COUNTRIES.

5. US REP CALLED UPON THE EAST TO WEIGH CAREFULLY WESTERN VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO FLANK SECURITY AND THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY DISPARITIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THE WEST HOPED TO RECEIVE CONSIDERED EASTERN VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS IN THE NEXT ROUND.

6. THE FULL TEXT OF THE US STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM. RESOR

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